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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1962

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Chairman of the Council : Councillor H. C. R. HEAD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor C. G. O. CLARKE

Councillors : W. GRAVER, G. LUMB, Mrs. D. J. RAMSBOTHAM,
S. D. PERRY, H. C. R. HEAD, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)

*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B.,
the Urban Districts of Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the
Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area M.O.
or North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division
and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)*

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

R. E. ATKINSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. F. SMITHIE, O.B.E., M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

N. J. ADAMS, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban
District of Bletchley

June 17th, 1963

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1962.

The Birth Rate again shows a rise and is now nearly five points higher than the rate for the rest of the country.

The Death Rate shows a satisfactory drop from the previous year being four points lower than the rate for the Country. Of the 139 deaths Heart and Allied diseases and Cancer accounted for 85.

The Infantile Mortality Rate also shows a drop from the previous year. There were eight deaths in this group, five of which were under the age of one week.

I should like to record another year of cordial co-operation with your Clerk, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

				1961	1961
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	4459	4459
Population	...	...	...	17097	18290
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	5238	5601
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	£279578	£300863
Rate per £1	...	...	...	23/8	25/1
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	£1175	£1250

BIRTHS :

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	171	201
					Females	183	192
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	8	11
					Females	7	11
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...		21.9	22.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County	...	...	...	...		18.6	19.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		17.4	18.0
Still Births	...	...	...	...	Males	5	1
					Females	4	1

DEATHS :

				Males	89	83
				Females	49	56
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...		8.2	7.0
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—						
Bucks County	...	...	...		9.4	9.0
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—						
England and Wales	...	...	...		12.0	11.9
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...		Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and						
Wales	...	...	...		0.11	0.35
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County	...	...	...		0.33	0.10

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

		1961	1962
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per			
1,000 Live Births ...	...	21.7	19.1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per			
1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...		18.1	17.9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per			
1,000 Live Births England & Wales		21.4	21.4

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

		1961		1962			
		M	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	0	0	0	2	0	2
Tuberculosis, other	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	...	13	8	21	12	7	19
Leukaemia	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Diabetes	...	2	1	3	0	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	9	11	20	8	9	17
Heart Disease	...	25	15	40	26	19	45
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	9	2	11	2	1	3
Influenza	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	4	1	5	7	2	9
Asthma	...	7	2	9	6	1	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	0	1	1	2	3
Digestive Diseases	...	1	0	1	1	2	3
Nephritis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	2	0	2	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	0	0	0	1	2	3
Accidents	...	7	0	7	3	3	6
Suicide	...	1	0	1	3	1	4
All Other Causes	...	8	9	17	8	6	14
Totals	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
		89	49	138	83	56	139

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford and Aylesbury. Samples of Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services are administered by the County Council and are race controlled. A modern Ambulance Station with five Ambulances, four Utilicons and two Buses has been established in the Town, and has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents.

3. HOME NURSING

Five District Nurse/Midwives are now functioning in the area. As in previous years they carried on their very excellent and notable work.

4. CLINICS

(a) *Child Welfare*

Due to the expansion of the town two sessions weekly are now held at the Whalley Drive Clinic plus a special "Toddlers" session every fourth Friday. The voluntary committee and health visitors attend each time and a doctor once a week.

The Clinic being held at the Spurgeon Memorial Baptist Church was moved to the Methodist Hall in Bletchley Road as it was more central.

Fortnightly sessions were held attended by the voluntary committee, health visitors and doctors. The total number of attendances during the year by children was 4,190.

I should like to record again grateful thanks to the ladies of the voluntary committees for giving so much of their spare time to this work.

(b) *Child Guidance Clinic*

This clinic, which is housed in the Whalley Drive Clinic, is now fully staffed with Consultant Psychiatrist, Educational Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker.

(c) *Dental Clinic*

A modern up to date clinic with two surgeries is housed in the Whalley Drive Clinic and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

5. HEALTH VISITING

Four whole time visitors have been appointed to cover Bletchley and surrounding area, and are doing excellent work for both old and young.

WELFARE/MENTAL HEALTH

Two officers cover Bletchley and surrounding areas and are doing very good work amongst the Mentally Handicapped and the Aged.

CARE OF THE BLIND

There is a qualified Home Teacher working in the area who visits homes for instruction in Braille, handicrafts and occupational interests.

CARE AND AFTER CARE OF THE SICK

A County Medical Social Worker has been appointed to the area who arranges for the care and after care of persons discharged from hospital and others who are ill at home, particularly those who are handicapped by long-term illnesses and disabilities.

SPEECH THERAPY

A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing excellent work among school children.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service is doing excellent work particularly amongst the aged and chronic sick. Two hundred and one cases were helped during the year.

DIAGNOSTIC AND OUT PATIENT CLINIC

This Clinic is proving a great boon to the town and has saved many weary journeys to out patient departments at Aylesbury and elsewhere.

The clinic is attended by Specialists in : Ear, Nose and Throat, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Chest Diseases, Orthopaedic Surgery, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Psychiatry.

MATERNITY UNIT

The provision of a Maternity Unit in the town has been planned or by the Regional Hospital Board, but so far there is no practical evidence of a start being made.

HOSPITALS

The following hospitals served the area :—

Royal Bucks Hospital
Tindal General Hospital
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Northampton General Hospital
Bedford General Hospital
London Hospitals
St. John's Hospital, Stone
Creaton Sanatorium

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A. WATER.

A pure and wholesome supply has been maintained throughout the district. The Bucks Water Board became the statutory undertaker for this service on April 1st, 1960.

Bacteriological and chemical samples were taken at various periods. No adverse reports were made as to bacteriological condition. A typical report on chemical analysis is as follows :

	Parts per million	
pH Value	7.8	Magnesium Nitrate
Hardness Total	230	Sodium Chloride
Hardness Carbonate	200	Sodium Carbonate
Hardness Non-Carbonate	30	Sodium Sulphate
Free Carbon Dioxide	6	Sodium Nitrate
Alkalinity as CaCO_3	200	Total Solids
Calcium Carbonate	190	Ammonia Nitrogen
Calcium Sulphate	Nil	Albuminoid Nitrogen
Calcium Chloride	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen
Magnesium Carbonate	10	O_2 Absorbed
Magnesium Sulphate	30	Iron as Fe
Magnesium Chloride	Nil	Fluoride as F
		Chlorine Residual

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewage works has functioned satisfactorily. Samples of the effluent are taken regularly. No complaints of pollution have been received.

The sludge dewatering plant has operated satisfactorily, and a duplicate plant is being erected.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Inspections are made of the few watercourses and ditches in the district. No pollution or flooding has taken place.

D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

A few houses in Drayton Road and elsewhere in isolated places are still without main drainage.

E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly refuse collection is maintained in the district. Two large capacity closed vehicles are in use.

Controlled tipping at the Saldon Wood site has continued to be satisfactory.

F. SHOPS ACT

Administered by the County Council. No contraventions were noted.

H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

One complaint was received during the year. Remedial action was taken by the firm concerned.

The forthcoming electrifying of the main London railway line may reduce smoke from the engine sheds.

I. SWIMMING POOL

The open air swimming pool was again well patronised by some 15,885 people during the summer.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR, MR. J. F. SMITHIE

The continuing expansion of the town has again been the main work of the surveying and engineering staff.

All public health duties relating to housing, food hygiene, building bye-laws, pest control, etc., as set out below were carried out by Mr. N. J. Adams who has now left the Council's service and who has been replaced by Mr. A. James. Other departments connected with the well-being of the community are Works and Highways (Mr. G. Heap) and the Housing Department (Mr. T. Holderness, Mr. L. H. Randall and F. H. Orchard).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON
VISITS AND INSPECTIONS IN 1962

Public Health and Housing			Factories Act			...	...	7
Acts	...	...	Refuse disposal	...	...	...	...	18
Food and Drugs Act	...	288	Rodent control	...	...	...	77	
Food Inspection	...	49	Infectious diseases	...	...	...	15	
Butchers' premises	...	49	Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	54	
Slaughterhouse	...	60	Interviews	...	...	...	97	
Ice cream premises	...	12	Total Visits and					
Building Byelaws	...	640	Inspections	...				2103

SECTION D HOUSING

Closing and demolition of unfit houses continued and at the end of 1962 only four unfit dwellings listed in the 1959 report were still occupied. A further survey of the district disclosed several more unfit houses which will be dealt with in the coming year.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number inspected and revisited under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	907
Houses unfit for habitation and due for clearance	...	...	...	...	...	7
Houses not in all respects fit where notices were served	...	...	...	...	...	39
Houses rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...	...	...	30
Statutory notices issued	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses closed or subject to agreement not to re-let	...	...	...	...	...	—

A considerable number of visits were made in connection with overcrowding of houses occupied by foreign workers.

Two hundred and fifteen new Council dwellings and 165 private dwellings were completed during the year.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. TYPES AND NUMBERS OF FOOD PREMISES

Butchers	...	...	14	Cafes	...	...	...	5
Fish Shops	...	...	5	Public Houses	...	...	...	21
Bakeries	...	...	2	Milk Retailers	...	...	...	7
General Food Shops	...	38						

2. Number of registered premises (ice-cream, cooked meat, etc.) 53

3. Two hundred and eighty eight inspections and visits were made to all types of food premises. Food condemned amounted to 5,382 lbs. This was disposed of by tipping at the Council's site with other refuse.

4. ICE CREAM

There are no manufacturers in the district using heat treatment. There was one large nationally known distribution depot in the town. Twelve visits to shops selling ice-cream were made. Three samples were taken, all of which were placed Grade 1 by the Bedford Public Health Laboratory.

5. FOOD HYGIENE

With the continuing expansion of the town come new and modern shops, well equipped with cold storage rooms, refrigeration and attractive layouts. The general standard of hygiene is satisfactory but once again the storage and disposal of refuse creates untidiness and potential nuisances despite a special trade refuse collection. There were no cases of food poisoning in the year.

6. MEAT

One small private slaughterhouse is licensed for the trade of the shop.

All other butchers obtain their meat from large centres in London, Luton and Northampton.

Inspection of animals slaughtered are detailed overleaf.

SECTION F

FACTORIES ACT

The requisite form of report is attached as an appendix to this report.

SECTION G : OTHER DUTIES

RODENT CONTROL. The joint area comprising Bletchley U.D.C., Newport U.D.C. and R.D.C., has dealt efficiently with all complaints of rats and mice. A bi-annual sewer treatment revealed a few persistent areas where rats have gained access to sewers and drains, and remedial work was carried out.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS. Forty-six premises are licensed to store petroleum, in quantities ranging from a few gallons of cellulose to thousands of gallons at filling stations.

The 1960 regulations are in force and all premises now comply with the prescribed standards.

SECTION H

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

GENERAL

There was an epidemic of Measles in the last quarter of the year, which was part of a general epidemic throughout the country.

NOTIFICATIONS

Measles ...	... ...	569	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	5
Dysentery ...	... ...	0				

TUBERCULOSIS

Seventeen new cases were notified thirteen of which were inward transfers. I have to report there were two deaths.

CANCER

There were 19 deaths from this disease during the year.

APPENDIX

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	87	—	6	367	156	—
Number Inspected ...	60	—	4	302	117	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	92	7	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	92	7	3	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffectual drainage of floors (S.6) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	Nil	2	Nil	3	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total					

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prose- cutions (7)
Wearing apparel : Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

